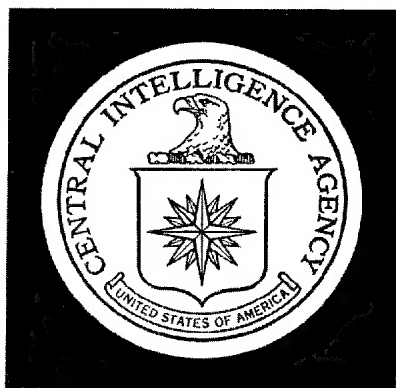


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

ARMY review(s) completed.

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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
The 275th Regiment of the 5th Viet Cong Division is apparently preparing for offensive activities in southern Phuoc Tuy Province (Paras. 1-3). Communist artillery was used against the US heavy artillery positions on 20 March.

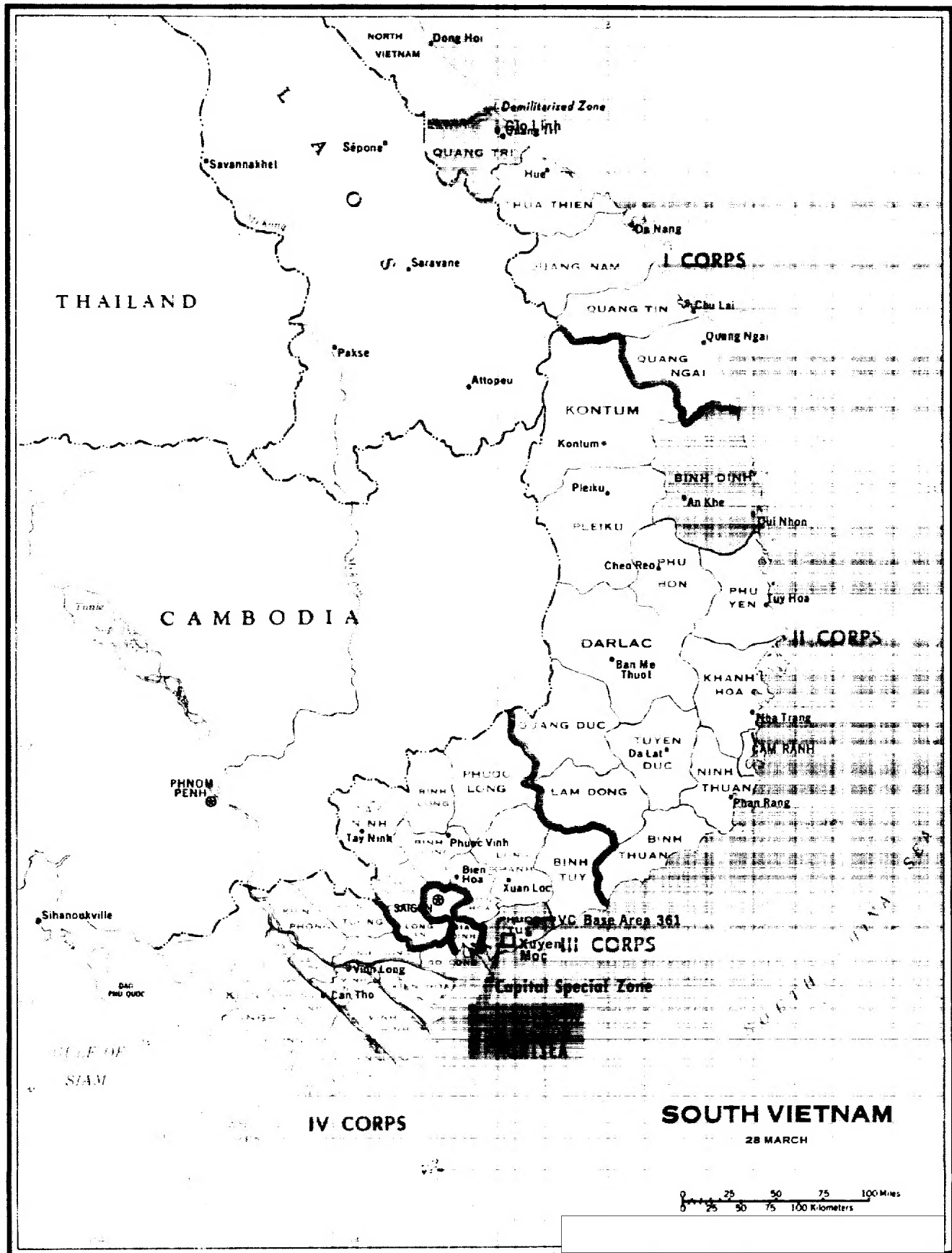
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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
Premier Ky is planning to write a book about current events in South Vietnam (Paras. 1-2).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Viet Cong Attack Plans in Phuoc Tuy Province

1. There are continuing indications that the 275th Regiment of the 5th Viet Cong Light Infantry Division may be preparing for offensive action in southern Phuoc Tuy Province.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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1. Premier Ky has assembled a task force of four journalists to help him write a book to be published before the presidential election this fall,

The project was prompted by an offer from an unnamed American publishing firm to pay him [redacted] for an acceptable draft. In a series of weekly sessions, the journalists will tape Ky's comments, translate them, and polish the language for the English version which Ky hopes to give to the publisher by the end of May.

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2. The book will treat events during the period from the fall of the Diem regime up to the promulgation of the constitution, concentrating on the issues of corruption, economic and social revolution, problems of youth, the role of intellectuals, international relations, and factors which have divided South Vietnam internally.

[redacted] it would appear that the book could serve as a convenient vehicle to present Ky's political platform if he decides to run for president.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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[REDACTED]

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. North Vietnamese spokesmen have recently been telling foreigners that the US is preparing to invade North Vietnam and Laos. The DRV ambassador in Cairo held a press conference on 26 March at which he charged "in an unusually emotional tone," that US and Thai forces are preparing to invade central and south Laos and had introduced large quantities of arms and material into that country. He further alleged that roads were being constructed preparatory to a joint US-Thai invasion. The DRV envoy also stated that the Washington Post had reported that the US was considering the use of nuclear weapons. He noted that the USSR and China also have such weapons and will stand with the DRV if it is attacked with nuclear weapons.

2. When asked about the possibility of a US land invasion of North Vietnam, the DRV ambassador replied that the US plans to advance toward North Vietnam after "subduing" the people of South Vietnam. He stated that North Vietnam has already made its preparations and that it could defeat any US invasion.

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the North Vietnamese are telling visitors that they fear the US may invade south of Thanh Hoa where there has been some naval bombardment recently. [REDACTED]

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4. The North Vietnamese undoubtedly are pushing this line as part of their effort to stir up fears around the world of a further US escalation of the war. [REDACTED]

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